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mens, I should think enough to fill a quart solid. It was soft, and inside had the color and consistency of stiff starch when cold. This, too, was in yellow ferruginous sand.

Freehold, N. J. S. LOCKWOOD.

Preservative for Fungi.—Three years ago I invented what I think a very good and cheap liquid for the preservation of fungi, composed of the following ingredients: 4½ ounces of common salt; 5 ounces of pulverized alum, and 1 quart of white wine vinegar. Mix thoroughly and keep in a wide-mouthed glass jar. Brush off any dirt that clings to the fungus, and drop the freshly gathered plant into the liquid.

I have beside me a large jar of plants that were collected in the summer of 1879. They are now in a perfect state of preservation. They have diminished somewhat in size, but their structure is preserved, and the larvae are effectually destroyed. The liquid often gets filled with sediment and floating particles, to free it from which I pour it off, strain it through a piece of thin muslin and return it to the plants.

Baltimore, Md. MARY E. BANNING.

Note on Grasses.—In a letter just received from Dr. Bentham he states that *Polypogon* is restored to its former place in Agrostideae.

I will add to my notes in the November BULLETIN that *Lepturus paniculatus*, Nutt., is a *Schedonnardus*, Steud., and follows *Gymnopogon*. *Lepturus Bolanderi*, Thurb., is, I think, a true *Lepturus*, R. Br., and follows *Triticum*.

Philadelphia. F. L. SCRIBNER.

Botanical Notes.—*An Electrified Lily.*—During a storm at Montmaurin, in the Upper Garonne, says *La Nature*, M. F. Laroque witnessed a curious electric phenomenon. Looking toward a clump of lilies, he saw the highest immersed in a diffused violet light, which formed an aureole around the corolla. This light lasted for eight or ten seconds. After it had ceased, he approached the lily and found, to his great surprise, that it was wholly deprived of its pollen, while the neighboring flowers were covered with it.

Night-closing in the Leaves of Purslane.—Mr. Meehan notes (*Proceedings* Philada. Acad. Sci.) that, in the list of plants having diurnal or nocturnal motion, *Portulaca oleracea* does not appear. At sundown the leaves, at other times at right angles with the stem, rise and press their upper surfaces against it. The morning expansion begins with dawn, and soon after sunrise the leaves are fully expanded. Mr. Isaac Burk has observed the same thing not only in *Portulaca*, but also in an allied plant of the West Indies, *Talinum patens*.

Rhus cotinoides.—Since its discovery by Nuttall, in the year 1819, in Arkansas, and twenty-three years later by Prof. Buckley, in North Alabama, *Rhus cotinoides*, Nutt., has not been found by any other botanist, and our knowledge of it has remained fragmentary and obscure.

After having been lost to the botanical world for fully forty years, the tree has recently been re-discovered by Mr. Charles Mohr, who made it a special object of his research in his investigations of the forest growth of the Gulf region for the tenth census. Mr. Mohr found the tree growing scattered along one of the rocky ravines that traverse the terrace-like shelves of limestone on the southern declivity of the Cumberland Mountains, as they descend upon the valley of the Tennessee River, in Madison County, Ala. The specimens found here ranged from 25 to 35 ft. in height. The largest one felled measured 35 ft. in length and 12 in. in diameter one foot above the ground.

"Arrived at such dimensions," says Mr. Mohr, in a paper on the subject in the *Proceedings* of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences," the tree has evidently long passed the best period of its life, judging from the decay by which, more or less, the trunk was found affected. No sign of a decline, however, could be observed in the vigor of its vegetation.

"The trunk divides at a height of from 12 to 14 ft. above its base; the primary limbs are erect, the secondary branches widely spreading, often slightly reclining, smooth, and divide into numerous divaricate reddish branchlets, rugose from the base of the leaf-stalks of the previous season. The bark is rough, covered with a whitish gray epidermis of a deep chestnut-brown underneath, and exfoliating in oblong square scales of uniform size. The inner bark is white, exposed to the air turning rapidly to a deep yellow color, and exudes, when bruised, a resinous sap of a heavy, disagreeable terebinthinous odor. The wood is heavy, very compact, of a fine grain· the white sap wood of small proportion surrounds, as a narrow ring, the deep yellow hard wood, variegated by zones of different shades of brown, imparting to it a beautiful appearance when polished. * * *

"The inner bark and wood are used for dyeing yellow, and it is said, also, for the production of purple tints. On this point, however, no definite information could be obtained.

"Large numbers of trees were cut down during the war to procure a dyestuff much valued at the time, and full-grown ones are now quite scarce near the settlements. On account of the beauty of its wood, the tree is called shittim-wood by the negroes, they believing it to be the same which was used in the construction of the tabernacle in Solomon's Temple. The wood permits of the finest finish; the fineness of its grain, beauty of color and its hardness fit it well for inlaid work, veneering, and the manufacture of smaller articles of all kinds of fancy woodwork.

"As an ornamental tree it far surpasses the European species, and will be found quite as hardy."

As observed in Alabama, the tree appears to be principally confined to the southern declivity of the mountains, from the northern border of the valley of the Tennessee, and strictly to the habitat above mentioned. It was not found on the sandstone cliffs which, but a short distance higher up, overlie the limestone strata, nor lower down the mountain sides, where the soil was deep and rich.

As its wood is used for fuel whenever accessible, the tree would rapidly become extinct within these narrow limits, were it not for its production of rapidly-growing sprouts to form a copious second growth.

Botanical Literature.

A Dictionary of Popular Names of Plants which furnish the natural and acquired Wants of Man in all Matters of Domestic and General Economy, their History, Products and Uses. By John Smith, F.L.S. London : Macmillan & Co.

The scope of this work is sufficiently indicated by the title which we give in full. It is only necessary to add that the plants treated of are arranged alphabetically under their English names, as far as such exist, followed by their systematic names (according to Lindley's system) and a compact statement of their history, characteristics, products and economic uses. Mr. Smith has enjoyed unexceptional facilities for obtaining information on the subjects of which his book treats, inasmuch as he has been officially connected with the Kew Gardens for upwards of forty years, and was assistant to the late Sir W. Hooker in establishing and arranging the Kew Museum of Economic Botany.

The work abounds in information of the most valuable and interesting character, and will prove very handy as a work of reference to every one who takes an interest in the vegetable kingdom.

The Woody Plants of Ohio, arranged under their appropriate Botanical Orders, with Remarks upon their Uses, Qualities and Sources. By John A. Warder, M.D., assisted by David L. James and Joseph F. James. 8vo. pamph. pp. 40.

In this paper, which was presented at the meeting of the Agricultural Convention of Ohio, in Columbus, January, 1882, the author and his assistants have aimed to provide the farmers of Ohio with a reference-list giving the names, relations, habits and uses of the woody plants of the State. The plants are enumerated in the order in which they occur in Gray's Manual; and the names of many are included in the list which, though insignificant from their diminutive size, "are still useful in the arts, or fill an important office in practical forestry as nurse-plants and as undergrowth, or even as 'ground herbage' among the more noble and valuable Trees of the Wood."

Proceedings of the Torrey Club.—The regular meeting of the Club was held at Columbia College, Tuesday evening, November 14th, the President in the chair and twenty-six persons present.

The Librarian reported on the books and pamphlets received since last meeting.

Field Excursions.—Prof. Day, in behalf of the Field Committee, read a report on the field excursions that had taken place during July, August and September.

Adhesion.—Mr. Wilber exhibited a section of a hemlock in which one of the branches had curved inward and become, at its extremity, fused with the trunk. Mr. Britton described and illustrated a case of adhesion between the branches of two maples that had been observed by him recently at Mt. Clair Heights, N. J.

Virescence in the Rose.—A specimen was shown by Mr. Braman of what is popularly called a "green rose"—a condition of the